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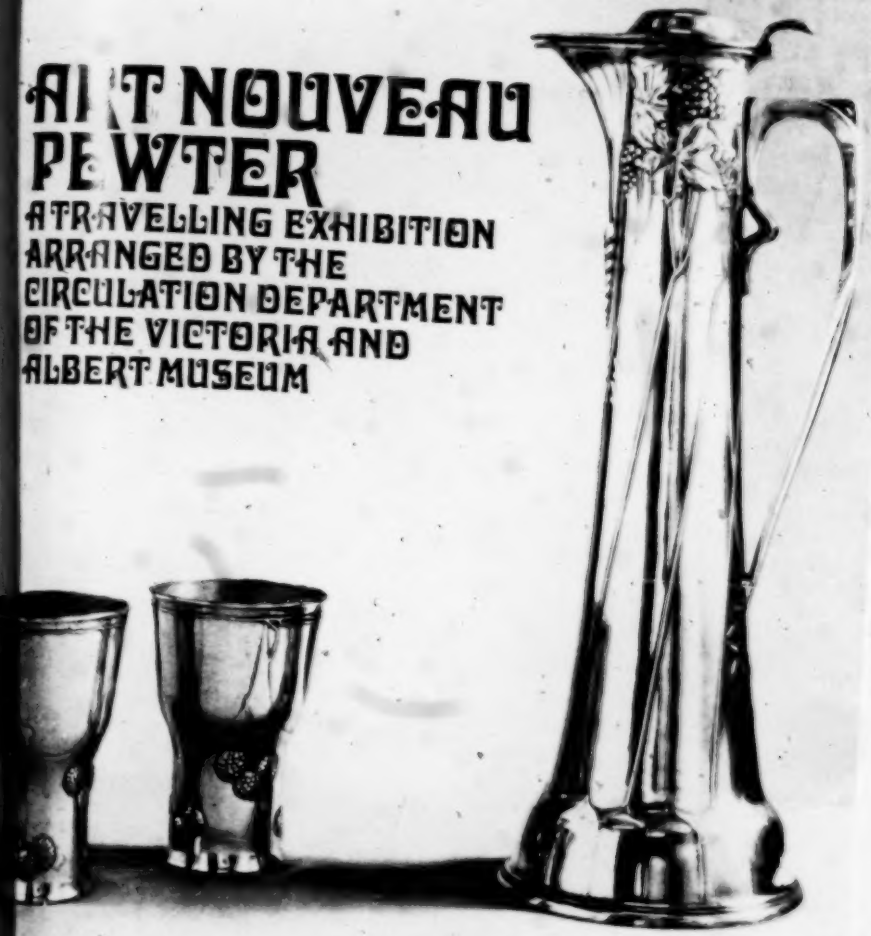
ART NOUVEAU PEWTER

A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION ARRANGED BY THE CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT OF THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM



1968

ART NOUVEAU PEWTER

Throughout the eighteenth century the manufacture of pewter both in England and on the Continent had gradually declined in the face of the ever-increasing production of cheaper earthenware and porcelain for table and other domestic use. The subsequent introduction of zinc, galvanized iron, Britannia metal and the process of electro-plating all helped to reduce the role of pewter until, by the middle of the nineteenth century, the trade was practically extinct surviving only in a few humble utilitarian articles such as bar fittings and hospital utensils.

This exhibition deals with the revival of the production and use of pewter which took place mainly in England and Germany about the end of the nineteenth century.

Catalogues and articles referred to by abbreviations:

Yule Tide Gifts	Liberty & Co.: *Yule Tide Gifts* catalogue. The date given in the text is that of the earliest appearance in these catalogues of the object in question.
Cymric-Tudric	Liberty & Co.: *'Cymric' Gold and Silverwork Jewellery & 'Tudric' Pewter*, catalogue, 1904.
New Fashions	Liberty & Co.: *New Fashions in Jewelry Silver-work and Pewter*, catalogue, 1904.
Gold & Silver	Liberty & Co.: *Gold & Silver work in 'Cymric' Designs, 'Tudric' Pewter*, catalogue, 1904.
S.A.J.	*Journal of the Society of Arts*, No. 2690, Vol. LII, London, 10th June, 1904.
Amaya	Mario Amaya: *Apollo*, Vol. LXXVII No. 12, February 1963.
Mannin	Winifred Tuckfield: 'Archibald Knox' in *Mannin* (Journal of the Manx Language Society), No. 7, Douglas, 1916.
Bott	Gerhard Bott: *Kunsthandwerk um 1900*. Darmstadt, 1967.

CONTENTS OF CASE 1

The revival of pewter production began in Germany in the last decade of the nineteenth century, stimulated by the *Art Nouveau* movement, it soon spread to other European countries.

Of the many pewter factories working in Germany the most important and successful was the firm of J. P. Kayser Sohn of Krefeld which was founded by Engelbert Kayser as early as 1885 and reached its zenith about the year 1900. At the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1900 the firm exhibited a large amount of their pewter ware which they marketed under the name 'Kayserzinn'.

Their work was of a high standard and was much admired. In England, the Art Journal of that year commented—'In the gallery of the German section there were many exhibits of an artistic nature. There were few more worthy of our attention than the work in 'Pure Tin' by the firm . . . It is a real pleasure to be able to record the high standard of excellence which was maintained throughout all the objects shown.' Arthur Lasenby Liberty dealt in some of the firms domestic products, selling them at his shop in Regent Street, London, from 1900 until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

All the objects in this section were made by J. P. Kayser Sohn, Krefeld, and were designed in the studio of Engelbert Kayser in Cologne. They all date from about 1898-1900.

1 **Pair of candlesticks** with a twisting, six-sided stem rising from a round base. The base and the rim of the nozzle decorated with a stylised plant design. *Marked:* 'Kayserzinn' over 4427 within oval outline. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1902, p.10 No. 8; S.A.J., p.633 Fig.7; Bott, Pl.236 (illustrated without nozzle). *H. 16½ in. Diam. 6 in.*
Circ. 947, a & b; 948, a & b - 1967

2 **Teapot** with a flat hinged lid. The sides decorated with a poppy and an iris. *Marked:* 'Kayserzinn' over 4189 within circular outline. *H. 6¼ in. W. 7¼ in.*
Circ. 950 - 1967

3 **Bowl** with an undulating rim. Decorated on the outside with three butterflies, and on the inside with three pairs of long gourds on curving stems and with three leaves. *Marked:* 'Kayserzinn' over 4317 within circular outline. *H. 4¼ in. Diam. 10½ in.*
Circ. 949 - 1967

4 **Shallow plate** with an irregularly scalloped edge. The rim decorated with an iris, an orchid, a winged insect and three stylised scallop shells. *Marked:* 'Kayserzinn' over 4097 within oval outline. *H. ¾ in. Diam. 10¼ in.*
895 - 1900

5 **Protestant baptismal ewer and basin.** The ewer has a pear-shaped body decorated with three angels heads around its neck, and at the base with fruit, leaves and a coiled serpent. The basin rises in the centre to form a stand for the ewer. It is decorated with the symbols of the four Evangelists and, in the centre, with a dove against a nimbus. *Marked on the basin:* 'Kayserzinn' over 4327 within oval outline. *Illus: Art Journal, Paris Exhibition number, 1900-01 p. 244. H. 11¼ in. Diam. of basin 14 in.*
894 & a - 1900

CONTENTS OF CASE 2

German *Art Nouveau* or *Jugendstil* developed in a rather more controlled manner than in other parts of Europe, and the plant and animal forms so widely used in this style were often

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portrayed in a direct and unexaggerated way in German designs. There were of course exceptions to this, but it was the less extravagant items which became most popular in England, where the more bizarre forms of *Art Nouveau* were considered to be rather absurd—if not totally abhorrent.

Thus it was the simpler, household pieces that Arthur Lasenby Liberty chose to introduce into England in 1900 as 'Novelties in Pewter Ware'. In 1904 he commented '. . . alongside the foolish and undesirable, it must in justice be admitted that the Germans have recently produced many original and pleasing designs in pewter'. From 1899 onwards he had imported pewter into England from several German factories, and the claret jug in this Case appears in the Liberty catalogues from 1900. The success of these items in the English market must have influenced Liberty in his decision to restart the manufacture of pewter in this country.

All the objects in this section were made in Germany about the turn of the century.

1a **Cake basket.** Oval, decorated with a swirling, aquatic design. Made by the firm of 'Orivit', Cologne. *Marked:* AOG over 'Orivit' within arch-shaped outline over 2199. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1912, p. 76 No. 12. *H. 6½ in. L. 13¼ in.*
Circ. 944 - 1967

1b **Large oval dish.** The border decorated with swirling lines and, at each end, with six stylised seed-heads. Made by the firm of 'Orivit', Cologne. *Marked:* 'Orivit' 2166. *H. 1 in. L. 23 ⅛ in.*
Circ. 946 - 1967

2 **Inkstand** with the figure of a woman reading a letter, set on a small tray decorated with a cyclamen plant. The lid of the inkwell is not original. Made by Württembergische Metallwarenfabrik. *Marked:* B WMF under a running bird device. 1/0 168. *H. 7½ in. W. 6¾ in.*
Circ. 34 - 1968

3a **Tall claret jug,** slender, with a hinged lid and a long, curving handle. The body decorated with vines; grapes and leaves are clustered around the top with stems trailing diagonally down to the base. Made by Walter Scherf & Co., Nuremberg. *Marked:* 'Osiris' 500. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1900, p. 70 No. 8. *H. 13½ in. W. 4¾ in.*
Circ. 941 - 1967

3b **A pair of goblets.** Decorated round the rim with trailing plant stems from which hang clusters of berries. Made by Walter Scherf & Co., Nuremberg. *Marked:* 'Osiris' 504 Isis within a four-sided outline. *H. 4¼ in. Diam. 2¾* in.
Circ. 942, 943 - 1967

4 **Inkstand** in the form of a water-lily standing on a leaf. Made by an unidentified factory. *Marked:* 611. *H. 3 in. L. 10 in.*
Circ. 957 - 1967

5 **Large oval dish** decorated with rushing water and netted fish. Possibly made by the firm of 'Orivit', Cologne. Unmarked. *H. 1¼ in. L. 26 in.*
Circ. 1041 - 1967

6 **Narrow, oval tray** with an irregular edge and small handles at each end. Decorated with swirling water, fish, a crab and a water-lily. Made by the firm of 'Orivit', Cologne. *Marked:* 'Orivit' 2110. *H. ¾ in. L. 24¼ in.*
Circ. 1040 - 1967

CONTENTS OF CASE 3

On the 17th of May 1904 Arthur Lasenby Liberty read a paper to the Society of Arts entitled 'Pewter and the Revival of its Use' in which he traced the decline of pewter production in England and went on to discuss the recent revival of the industry. He illustrated this paper with several items of contemporary German pewter, together with pieces of the

new English made 'Tudric' ware which he had put into production the previous year.

He had already, in 1899, developed a new range of jewellery and silver, and on the 17th of May 1901 he had registered the new firm of Liberty & Co. (Cymric) Ltd. at the Board of Trade. This company represented a combined undertaking by Liberty's and the Birmingham firm of W. H. Haseler, and it was this concern that was to produce almost all of the Liberty metalwork, including the new pewter venture.

Liberty's maintained a policy of complete anonymity where its designers were concerned; their catalogues refer only to 'Original Designs by Liberty & Co.', and their cost books which would have contained information on this point have unfortunately been destroyed. Thus it is now very difficult to identify the work of individual designers who, in many cases, were working in a rather similar style. This difficulty is increased by the fact that the firm often adapted and modified their designs. In the early development of the pewter ware the most important designers were the young Reginald (Rex) Silver (1879-1965) and the Manx artist Archibald Knox (1864-1933).

All the objects in this section were made by the firm of W. H. Haseler for Liberty & Co.

1 **Inkstand** of squat cylindrical form set on a square tray base. The hinged lid has a raised, rectangular design; the tray is decorated with four circular flower motifs. Designed 1903-4. *Marked:* 9 Tudric 0141. *Illus:* New Fashions, p. 67 No. 3; Amaya, Pl. II. *H. 3¼ in. W. 6¼ in.*
Circ. 1 - 1968

2 **Clock** with a round face and a blue-green and red enamel motif on the front. Its four sides cast in imitation of hand-beaten work; with a shallow, pyramidal top. Designed 1903-4. *Marked:* Made in England Made by Liberty & Co. 0629. *H. 7¼ in. W. 3¼ in.*
Circ. 137 - 1964

3 **Vase,** in the form of an inverted cone with curved sides, supported on a base which divides into three spurs rising to form handles; the top decorated with three stylised interlaced plant motifs. Probably designed by Archibald Knox about 1906-9. *Marked:* English Pewter 0927 Made in England. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1909, p. 115 No. 9. *H. 11¼ in. Diam. 5¼ in.*
Circ. 936 - 1967

4 **Oval cake tray** decorated inside with a large area of blue enamel. The semi-circular handle and the raised sides decorated with sprays of heart-shaped leaves. Designed 1905. *Marked:* 3 Made by Liberty & Co. Rd. 448914 English Pewter 0359. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1906, p. 76 No. 3. *H. 5¼ in. L. 9¼ in.*
Circ. 938-1967

5 **Small flower vase** with a domical base and a thin tapering neck. The base decorated with pairs of flower heads and two triangular areas of blue-green enamel. Designed about 1906. *Marked:* Tudric 0818. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1907, p. 55 No. 8. *H. 6 in. Diam. 2¼ in.*
Circ. 919 - 1967

6 **Candlestick** with a plain tubular stem, set on a conical base decorated with three circular, blue-green enamel plaques. Designed about 1905. *Marked:* Tudric 0259 2. *H. 6¼ in. Diam. 4¼ in.*
Circ. 925 - 1967

7 **Cigar or cigarette box** with a large enamel of a seascape set in the lid. The sides decorated with two rows of pointed leaf shapes; the inside lined with wood. Probably designed about 1904-5. *Marked:* 078. *H. 3 in. L. 8¼ in.*
Circ. 958 - 1967

8 **Biscuit box.** The body is cylindrical and has two small handles near the top. The lid is flat with a round knop. Both decorated with four small heart-shaped leaves. Designed 1903-4. *Marked:* Tudric 059. *Illus:* Cymric-Tudric, p. 62 No. 4. *H. 7 in. W. 7¼ in.*
Circ. 911 & a - 1967

9 **Loving cup** with two large handles. Decorated with eight vertical tree forms with stylised, twisted roots and 'honesty' seed-pods. Designed 1903-4. *Marked:* 010 Tudric *Illus:* Cymric-Tudric, p. 59 No. 1; New Fashions, p. 68 No. 3. *H. 7¼ in. W. 7 in.*
Circ. 912 - 1967

10 **Clock** with a green and brown enamel face. The clock case decorated on the front with a tree form which has knotted roots at the base and 'honesty' seed-pods above and below the face. Designed about 1905. *Marked:* Tudric 0150. *H. 13 in. W. 6¼ in.*
Circ. 913 - 1967.

CONTENTS OF CASE 4

Archibald Knox was born in 1864 and educated in Douglas, Isle of Man, where he later taught at the Grammar School and at the School of Art. He came to London in 1879 and taught at the art schools in Redhill, Kingston-on-Thames and Wimbledon. In the 1890s he began to supply designs to Liberty & Co. of Regent Street, London.

As with so many designers in England, Knox greatly disliked the swirling excesses of the Continental *Art Nouveau* and it is indeed ironic that many of these same artists are now widely thought of as English exponents of this style. Knox's own work, with its springing curves and controlled line, derives rather from the taut interlacing of Celtic ornamentation found on Manx crosses and in illuminated manuscripts. A sense of growth and freedom can be found in his designs together with an imaginative approach to functional forms.
A large amount of his work for Liberty's—he made over four hundred designs for them—was produced for their range of 'Cymric' silver and jewellery, but his style was particularly suited to the more restrained medium of pewter. Due to Liberty's policy of anonymity only a few pieces can definitely be identified as the work of Knox but, on stylistic grounds, many more articles may be attributed to him.

In this section only the objects 1 and 11 are definitely known to be by Knox, but all of the others are probably from his designs. They were all made by the firm of W. H. Haseler for Liberty & Co.

1a **Teapot** set on two flat runners; with cane covered handle. The body decorated on either side of the handle with a stylised 'honesty' seed-pod design. This and the two following items are part of a tea set. Designed by Knox in 1903. *Marked:* 6 Made in England Tudric Pewter 0231 1¾ pints. *Illus:* New Fashions, p. 74 top plate; Mannin, p.383 facing; Amaya, Fig 3. *H. 4¼ in. W. 6¾ in.*
Circ. 916 - 1967

1b **Milk jug** set on two flat runners. Decorated on either side of the handle with a stylised 'honesty' seed-pod design. Designed by Knox in 1903. *Marked:* H Made in England Tudric Pewter 0231. *Illus:* New Fashions, p. 74 top plate; Mannin, p.383 facing; Amaya, Fig. 3. *H. 2¾ in. W. 4¼ in.*
Circ. 917 - 1967

1c **Sugar bowl** set on two flat runners. Decorated on either side of the handle with a stylised 'honesty' seed-pod design. Designed by Knox in 1903. *Marked:* 6 Made in England Tudric Pewter 0231. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1907, p. 61 No.1; Mannin, p. 383 facing. *H. 2¾ in. W. 4¼ in.*
Circ. 918 - 1967

2 **Rectangular tray** with a simulated beaten finish. The inside decorated in each corner with a circular motif based on a stylised plant form. Designed about 1906. *Marked:* H Made in England Tudric 0376 over a crossed-plant device and the word Solkets. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1907, p. 61 No. 4. *H. 1 in. L. 19¾ in.*
Circ. 915 - 1967

3 **A semi-circular crumb scoop.** The two corners decorated with a pair of stylised leaves on an interlaced stem. Designed 1905. *Marked:* Rd 459677 Tudric 0532. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1907, p. 61 No. 3. *H. 1¼ in. W. 9¾ in.*
Circ. 921 - 1967

4 **Candlestick** in the form of an inverted cone with curved sides, its point standing on

a round, slightly domed base decorated with three interlocking, stylised plant forms. Designed about 1903. *Marked:* 8 Tudric 0221. *Illus:* New Fashions, p. 63 No. 1; Bott, Pl. 239. *H. 5¼ in. Diam. 4¾ in.*
Circ. 931 - 1967

5 **Small cake tray;** rectangular with curved sides. Decorated with stylised leaves and pierced flower-heads. Designed about 1904. *Marked:* English Pewter 0547. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1905, p. 74 No. 3. *H. ¾ in. L. 9¼ in.*
Circ. 935 - 1967

6 **An oval cake basket** with curved handle. The handle and the two sides of the tray are decorated with rows of square leaves on trailing stems and with rounded flower forms. Designed 1905. *Marked:* Tudric 0357 Rd 449032. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1905, p. 79 No. 2. *H. 4 in. L. 12¼ in.*
Circ. 914 - 1967

7 **Bottle-shaped vase,** decorated near the base with four blue-green enamels. Designed 1904. *Marked:* Rd 426775 0323 Tudric. *Illus:* New Fashions, p. 68 No. 1. *H. 7 in. Diam. 2¼ in.*
Circ. 924 - 1967

8 **A cylindrical biscuit box** with a slightly domed lid embodying a sunken handle. The sides decorated with a row of stylised flower forms set with blue-green enamels. Designed 1903-4. *Marked:* Made by Liberty & Co. English Pewter 0193. *Illus:* New Fashions, p. 78 No. 1; Gold & Silver, p. 34 No. 1. *H. 5 in. Diam. 4¾ in.*
Circ. 361 & a - 1964

9 **Inkstand** in the form of a shallow circular dome with a central hinged lid. Decorated with a double knot design with circular flower forms. Designed about 1904. *Marked:* Tudric 6 0521. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1905, p. 73 No. 2; Amaya, Fig. 3. *H. 1¼ in. Diam. 5 in.*
Circ. 922 - 1967

10 **Cylindrical hot water jug** with cane covered handle. Decorated with a design or circles and curving lines on each side of the handle. Designed about 1903. *Marked:* Made in England English Pewter made by Liberty & Co. 0305. *Illus:* New Fashions, p. 64 No. 5. *H. 8¼ in. W. 5¼ in.*
Circ. 933 - 1967

11 **Biscuit box** in the form of a cube with slightly convex sides. Decorated with three horizontal rows of squared flowers and leaves. Designed by Knox about 1903. *Marked:* English Pewter 0194 Made in England. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, 1905, p. 79 No. 3; S.A.J., p. 639 Fig. 18; Amaya, Fig. 4; Mannin, p. 382 facing. *H. 4¼ in W. 4¾ in.*
Circ. 934 & a - 1967

CONTENTS OF CASE 5

Liberty had suggested in 1904 that the new pewter ware should be decorated with modifications of ancient Celtic forms supplemented by floral and plant motifs. The plant decoration was to predominate in the pewter, usually in a controlled and stylised manner but sometimes, as in the two vases nos. 3 and 5 in this Case, with a degree of naturalism which is closer to the Continental *Art Nouveau*. Small amounts of pewter were produced by other firms in England but none of them were involved in such large scale manufacture as Liberty's.

The cake basket no. 2 in this section was made by Connell's of Cheapside, but all the other pieces were made by the firm of W. H. Haseler for Liberty & Co.

1 **A large circular flower bowl** set on a flat pedestal base. The body decorated with swirling tendrils and stylised plant forms. Alternate pairs of plant heads are set with blue enamels. Designed about 1904-5. *Marked:* Tudric 06. *Illus:* New Fashions, p. 71 No. 2. *H. 7¾ in. Diam. 14¾ in.*
Circ. 910 - 1967

2 **Oval cake basket** with circular central bowl, crossed by a handle. Decorated at each end by a pierced spray of branched plant forms. Made by Connell's of Cheapside, probably about 1910. *Marked:* Connell, 83 Cheapside, 1174. *H. 5¼ in. L. 13¾ in.*
Circ. 939 - 1967

3 **Flower vase** in the form of a small circular bowl on a narrow stem rising from a circular base. Curling stems, rising from leaf

shapes on the base to the sides of the bowl, form two handles. Designed 1903-4. *Marked:* 6 Tudric 029. *Illus:* Gold & Silver, p. 33 No. 4. *H.* 9¾ *in. Diam* 4¾ *in.*

Circ. 930 - 1967

4 **Circular flower bowl** with a band of stylised floral ornament round the shoulder. Two handles extend beneath the bowl to form the feet. Designed by Rex Silver in 1903. *Marked:* Rd 414420 English Pewter made by Liberty & Co. 0229. *Illus:* Yule Tide Gifts, p. 79 No. 1; Shirley Bury, *Architectural Review*, No. 792, 1963, p. 110 Pl. 6. *H. 6 in. W. 11½ in.*

Circ. 275 - 1961

5 **Tall vase** set on a wide, irregular base which has a scaly, plant-like surface. A handle suggesting a plant stem runs from the top of the vase to its base. Designed about 1905. *Marked:* 5 Tudric 0213. *H. 13½ in. Diam. 5¼ in.*

Circ. 929 - 1967

6 **Inkstand and calender** in the form of a rectangular tray with a central, circular design of swirling stems. Two compartments contain square glass ink bottles with hinged pewter lids; an upright pewter [illegible] holds seven celluloid calendar sheets [illegible] lids of the inkwells are set with single [illegible]-green enamels and there are two mor[illegible] the tray. Designed about 1905-10. *Mar*[illegible]3 English Pewter 01060. *H. 4¼ in. L. 1*[illegible]

Circ. 937 & a to i - 1967

7 **Circular entrée dish** with an [illegible]egular edge decorated with a 'whiplash' line. The lid is in the form of a shallow cone, slightly concave, with a single spur handle connecting the tip to the outer rim. Probably designed by Archibald Knox in 1903-4. *Marked:* Made in England English Pewter made by Liberty & Co. 0293. *Illus:* Gold & Silver, p. 38 No. 1; New Fashions, p. 72 No. 3. *H. 3¼ in. W. 9¾ in.*

Circ. 154 & a - 1955

8 **A circular dish or salver** decorated on the rim in five places with an 'open knot' design each containing two pieces of nacreous shell. Designed 1903-4. *Marked:* Tudric 0109. *Illus:* Cymric-Tudric p. 69 No. 3. *H. 1 in. Diam. 9½ in.*

Circ. 927 - 1967

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